

Listing of the Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A carrier for at least one shaped charge, the carrier being disposable in use within a well bore, the carrier comprising a housing at least partially formed from a composite material, the composite material being non-frangible in normal use and the composite material being arranged substantially to contain debris created within the carrier as a result of firing of the at least one shaped charge and wherein the composite material is not steel.
2. (Currently amended) A carrier according to claim 1 in which the housing comprises an inner housing which is at least partially encompassed by an outer composite material overwrap in which the outer composite material is a reinforced polymer material.
3. (Original) A carrier according to claim 2 in which the inner housing is substantially of metal.
4. (Original) A carrier according to claim 1 in which the housing is a composite material housing.
5. (Previously presented) A carrier according to claim 1, wherein the housing comprises a thin-walled cylinder.
6. (Previously presented) A carrier according to claim 1, in which the housing comprises a thin-walled metal cylinder.
7. (Previously presented) A carrier according to claim 1, in which the carrier has at least one port formed therein.
8. (Previously presented) A carrier according to claim 1, in which a plurality of ports are distributed along the longitudinal extent of the carrier.

9. (Currently amended) A carrier for at least one shaped charge, the carrier being disposable in use within a well bore, the carrier comprising a housing at least partially formed from a composite material, the composite material being non-frangible in normal use and the composite material being arranged substantially to contain debris created within the carrier as a result of firing of the at least one shaped charge according to claim 1, in which the composite material is a loaded polymer matrix.
10. (Previously presented) A carrier according to claim 1, in which the composite material includes longitudinally arranged fibres.
11. (Previously presented) A carrier according to claim 1, in which the composite material includes circumferentially arranged fibres.
12. (Previously presented) A carrier according to claim 11, in which said circumferentially arranged fibres have respective predetermined tensions.
13. (Previously presented) A perforating gun comprising a carrier according to claim 1.
14. (Previously presented) A method of improving fluid outflow from a well borehole the method comprising the steps of:
providing a perforating gun according to claim 13;
positioning the perforating gun in the well borehole;
perforating the borehole by firing the perforating gun;
retrieving debris resulting from the step of perforating by recovering the carrier of the perforating gun, the carrier containing debris resulting from the firing.
15. (Original) A method according to claim 14 in which the fluid is one or more of hydrocarbons, water, and steam.